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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 26 October 2004, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Droba (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Slovakia)

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In the absence of Mr. Swe (Myanmar), Mr. Droba (Slovakia), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 77: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

General debate (continued)

1. **Mr. El Alaoui** (Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, reiterated the Movement's general position on United Nations peacekeeping: the establishment of any new peacekeeping operation or the extension of any existing mandate under Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations should be based not only on the consent of the parties but also on the principle of the non-use of force except in self-defence. Impartiality, clearly defined mandates and secure financing were essential to a mission's success. However, peacekeeping could not be a substitute for a permanent solution or for measures to address the underlying causes of a conflict.

2. The international community was now at a critical juncture, facing a need to solve complicated problems in meeting the growing requirements for peacekeeping personnel, logistical support and financial resources. In that connection the members of the Non-Aligned Movement called for a review of the existing level of pre-mandate commitment authority and the replenishment of the strategic deployment stocks in order to ensure the rapid deployment of new missions. There was also a need for larger numbers of suitably qualified specialized civilian police and for increased cooperation among troop-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat. The Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations should hold more frequent meetings with troop-contributing countries, especially in the early stages of mission planning.

3. It was important to strengthen regional peacekeeping, especially in Africa, and to reaffirm the primacy of the United Nations in maintaining peace and security. In view of the increasing threats to United Nations personnel, constant attention must be given to the gathering and processing of information in the field in order to guarantee their safety and security. With regard to the claims of troop-contributing countries for reimbursement of their costs, it was vitally important for the Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions. Another important issue for the members of the Non-Aligned Movement was the persisting gap between developing and developed countries in the contribution of personnel and equipment to United Nations peacekeeping operations.

4. **Mr. Mekdad** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation endorsed the statement made by the representative of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. A number of successful outcomes had been achieved and many problems had been solved in the course of United Nations peacekeeping operations. That confirmed the central role of the United Nations as the leading multilateral organization for the maintenance of international peace and security. Peacekeeping played an important part in easing tensions and creating favourable conditions for peacebuilding. Despite their increasing complexity, peacekeeping operations continued to be conducted successfully. They had achieved remarkable successes in Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste, Bosnia and Herzegovina and other parts of the world. Nevertheless, peacebuilding must not be viewed as an alternative to the final settlement of a conflict, for that could be attained only by removing its root causes.

5. The United Nations had begun its peacekeeping work half a century ago in the Middle East and it was still conducting operations there as a result of Israel's continuing defiance of the resolutions adopted by the international community. His country advocated the rapid deployment of peacekeeping missions and the prompt reimbursement of the costs of troop-contributing countries and emphasized the need for observance of the guiding principles of peacekeeping operations, strict compliance with mandates, and respect for the principles of the United Nations. It was important to formulate clear and realistic mandates free of double standards and to reinforce the procedures and measures for ensuring the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel. It was also important to establish an authentic trilateral partnership between the Security Council, the General Assembly and troop-contributing countries in the planning, preparation and conduct of peacekeeping operations.

6. **Mr. Leong** Yue Kheong (Singapore) said that the recent significant increase in peacekeeping operations was stepping up the pressure on the Member States to contribute additional troops and financial resources.

There remained shortfalls in specialized military capabilities in air transport, logistics, field medical facilities, and even knowledge of local languages. And there was a growing need for protection of peacekeepers and civilian personnel involved in United Nations work. Despite the significant progress made by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), there were three areas requiring urgent attention.

7. Firstly, it was a matter of urgency to strengthen the protection of United Nations personnel, including civilians and volunteers, for safety was crucial for their morale and for the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, as well as for the authority of the Organization itself. The introduction of joint mission analysis cells was noteworthy in that connection. The information gathered on the ground must be complemented by continued monitoring of potential threats with the assistance of other agencies and regular assessment of threats and risks arising in the course of current operations.

8. Secondly, peacekeeping operations needed to be better integrated. An effort must be made right from the outset to synchronize both peacekeeping and peacebuilding so that the entire continuum was managed as one integrated operation. In addition to planning, integration must encompass the allocation of resources, initial force training and preparation, and security management. The integrated training of military, police and civilian personnel was one of the essential conditions for building a fully fledged force.

9. Thirdly, the deployment of United Nations peacekeeping missions must be speeded up. Response times could be improved by increasing the logistical support and the rapid deployment stocks. That undertaking could be facilitated by qualitative training of personnel so that they were ready for action in complex peacekeeping operations. The work of the various regional peacekeeping training centres warranted encouragement in that connection. The experience of the Defence and Security Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and its use of standby units with a rapid-reaction component equipped and ready for deployment in West Africa offered a useful example. The current arrangements for authorizing the early release of resources from the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund should be simplified. Since the solution of peacekeeping problems required patience, expectations of the time needed for the efforts to bear fruit must be realistic.

10. **Mr. Kitaoka** (Japan) said that peacekeeping operations were an effective means of promoting conflict resolution. In addition to paying its assessed contributions for peacekeeping operations, his Government provided troops and other personnel and financial and material support, as well as taking part in activities to promote peace processes and peacebuilding. There had recently been a sharp increase in the number of peacekeeping operations, especially in Africa, which entailed further cooperation among the Member States, not only among the troop-contributing countries but also among the countries which furnished the operations with financial support; Japan would certainly fulfil its obligations in that regard as a responsible member of the international community. His Government pointed to the need for effective and efficient management of the operations and for exploration of the possibility of more flexible allocation of resources among missions deployed in the same region. There was also a need for periodic review of the size of missions and for them to be scaled down as their mandates were fulfilled.

11. The international community should recognize that not all the missions were accomplishing their mandated objectives and acknowledge the difficulties entailed in complex missions whose work included peacebuilding. It must undertake a comprehensive review of the conduct of such complex missions and their peacebuilding activities and formulate policies and strategies for meeting those hard challenges.

12. In that connection Japan wished to underscore the crucial importance of an effective linkage between ownership — the efforts of the Governments and peoples of a conflict region — and partnership with the international community. For example, through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) the countries of Africa had been taking their own development initiatives while maintaining a close partnership with the international community. It was appropriate to use the possibilities offered by regional and subregional organizations. Japan appreciated the conflict-resolution initiatives of ECOWAS in West Africa and the work of the African Union in connection with the peace process in Burundi and the problems in Darfur.

13. It was also necessary to enhance the peacebuilding partnership with country teams on the ground and with the Bretton Woods institutions. It was extremely important to create businesses to facilitate sustainable development and the establishment of industries in post-conflict regions, and consideration must therefore be given to the question of how to make greater use of the knowledge and experience of the private sector for those purposes.

14. In view of the great significance of the changes taking place in peacekeeping functions and of the need for cooperation with the relevant organizations, Japan was planning to hold a seminar to discuss cooperation in peacekeeping work and the demands placed on the personnel recruited. It emphasized the continuing need to implement General Assembly resolution 56/293, which urged the Secretary-General to take immediate measures to improve the representation of underrepresented and unrepresented Member States in future recruitment of DPKO personnel.

15. **Mr. Wali** (Nigeria) noted the positive developments in DPKO since the conclusion of the work of the Brahimi Panel. Peacekeeping operations could be successful only if a holistic approach and strategies continued to be applied. Nigeria was committed to the principle of resolving internal tensions through peaceful means.

16. Considering that poverty was one of the causes of conflicts, Nigeria supported the involvement of Bretton Woods institutions in cooperation with United Nations agencies in conflict prevention, disarmament, demobilization and rehabilitation programmes.

17. Nigeria commended the enhanced capability of DPKO to deploy peacekeeping operations more rapidly in very difficult situations. He called on DPKO to make more effective use of the on-call list of civilian personnel to fill vacancies in current field missions.

18. The delegation of Nigeria noted the continued improvement in the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programme. The Secretariat should be given adequate resources to implement that programme. Nigeria called on Member States and the international community to support the DDR programme in Liberia and Guinea-Bissau in order to ensure sustainable peace in those countries.

19. Since the Charter of the United Nations recognized the vital role of regional and subregional organizations in conflict resolution, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, Nigeria called on the United Nations to enhance the capacity of regional and subregional organizations. The experience of ECOWAS in crisis management confirmed the cost-effectiveness of peacekeeping operations.

20. Nigeria welcomed the establishment of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, which illustrated the United Nations determination to strengthen its cooperation with the African Union and other regional organizations for the maintenance of peace and security on the continent.

21. Nigeria commended the assistance and cooperation between the United Nations and ECOWAS in peacekeeping and peacebuilding in Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone. ECOWAS had been able to resolve complex humanitarian issues in the region through the active cooperation and assistance of the United Nations.

22. The safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel were of concern to the Nigerian delegation. In that connection, Nigeria condemned the bombing at the United Nations Office in Baghdad and endorsed the proposal for creating a unified security management system.

23. The effectiveness of peacekeeping operations largely depended on the ability of troop-contributing countries to deploy troops rapidly and effectively. Regrettably, most developing troop-contributing countries were still unable to deploy their troops to missions within the recommended periods.

24. Nigeria commended the efforts of DPKO to develop an integrated training policy and strategy and the coordination of training of military, civilian police and civilian components of peacekeeping operations.

25. **Ms. Maso** (South Africa) said that her delegation appreciated the briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, in which he had outlined a multitude of challenges facing the Secretariat in ensuring the effective deployment, management and support of peacekeeping operations. Despite all their weaknesses and constraints, such operations continued to make an important and valuable contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security. They were being carried out in difficult situations in such countries as

the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Burundi and Côte d'Ivoire, as well as in other countries, inspiring hope in millions of people living in conflict areas. That bore testimony to the indispensability of the operations and their central role in the maintenance of international peace and security.

26. Her delegation noted the sharp increase in the number of peacekeeping operations and was concerned about the difficulty of generating capabilities for the missions. The Member States must ask themselves whether they were doing everything possible for the success of the missions. That question was at the core of the efforts to make peacekeeping an effective instrument. It was widely acknowledged that most of the developing countries would like to make their contribution to peacekeeping but lacked the necessary capability, while the developed countries had the capability but lacked the political will. The time had come to bridge that gap by creating partnerships to address the logistical problems of troop contributors.

27. The interesting proposal of the Under-Secretary-General concerning trilateral agreements between the United Nations, troop-contributing countries and donor countries warranted detailed study. Her delegation noted the options which he had presented for improving the rapid and effective deployment of the peacekeeping capabilities of the United Nations and would welcome further details on the strategic reserve, including the civilian personnel involved. It was convinced that peacekeeping could not be an end in itself but must be aimed at creating better conditions for socio-economic development and good governance. The main causes of conflicts in Africa were economic: the struggle for access to or control or exploitation of scarce natural resources. That was why her delegation advocated an integrated approach which incorporated peacebuilding during the start-up of a peacekeeping mission. Quick-impact projects might serve as a good basis for such work.

28. Quite often a country relapsed into conflict as soon as the peacekeepers had left. Peacekeeping missions must therefore include specialists in post-conflict work and allocate appropriate resources for such work in order to ensure a smooth transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding. An integrated approach was important, especially in the case of activities funded from voluntary contributions; in many missions the results achieved during the peacekeeping operation were easily undermined by the lack of progress in such activities.

29. Peacekeeping was a very expensive exercise, and every effort had to be made to ensure a mission's success once the decision had been taken to establish it. In that regard her delegation supported the expansion of the strategic deployment stocks and the review of the pre-mandate authorization procedure in order to shorten the time-lag between the approval of a mandate and the actual deployment of a mission. There was also a problem of differences in interpretation between the Secretariat and the field operations concerning the terms of memoranda of understanding, which had an adverse effect on the participation of troop-contributing countries. Recommendations from the Secretary-General for improving coordination in that area would be welcome.

30. One of the most important innovations in the management of international security in the period since the ending of the cold war was the concept of the shared responsibility of the United Nations and regional organizations for the effective settlement of conflicts in the various regions of the world. The Security Council could indeed use regional organizations for that purpose by virtue of their proximity to and profound knowledge of particular conflicts. In many cases a regional organization could intervene sooner than the United Nations. For instance, the African Union had been the first body to assist the peoples of Burundi and Darfur.

31. The Member States might soon have to define in clear terms how the Organization could use regional organizations which were prepared to assist. The international community had requested the African Union to expand its involvement in Darfur, but that request had so far not been accompanied by an indication that the international community intended to assign a specific amount of resources for that purpose.

32. **Mr. Kim** Sam-hoon (Republic of Korea) said that the Republic of Korea attached great importance to the role of United Nations peacekeeping operations in maintaining international peace and security. The image and the relevance of the United Nations in the eyes of the peoples represented in the Organization were shaped more by the performance of its peacekeeping missions than by anything else. The Republic of Korea had participated actively in peacekeeping operations in various countries of the

world, including Somalia, Angola, Western Sahara, Timor-Leste and others.

33. The demand for peacekeeping operations now exceeded the capacity of the United Nations or any regional or subregional organization. With the forthcoming establishment of a new peacekeeping force in the Sudan and the increases in troop levels in Haiti and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the total number of United Nations peacekeepers would soon exceed the record of 78,000 set in 1993. Peacekeeping operations were acquiring more complex mandates, which increasingly included political, economic and social dimensions and presupposed the participation of diverse partners. The most daunting challenge in that regard was how to meet the surging demand for peacekeeping operations, which were growing in size and complexity, from the limited resources available to the United Nations. In order to cope with that challenge, it was first necessary to strengthen further the Organization's operational capabilities. That would require not only an increased input of resources but also constant improvements in the quality of the training of mission personnel and in the efficiency of support from Headquarters.

34. The importance of cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements could not be overemphasized. That was confirmed by the examples of the Organization's successful cooperation with the African Union, ECOWAS, the European Union, NATO, OSCE and CARICOM in Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Burundi, the Sudan, Kosovo, Haiti and Afghanistan. It was vital to enhance further the role of regional organizations and make more efficient use of their comparative advantages in a complementary and mutually reinforcing manner in order to increase the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations. In that connection, DPKO should determine the optimum division of responsibilities with regional and subregional arrangements.

35. Given that the bulk of the demand for peacekeeping operations arose in Africa, it was imperative to strengthen the peacekeeping capabilities of African States. In that regard his delegation welcomed and supported the efforts and initiatives of the African Union and the African subregional arrangements to enhance their capacity to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts on the African continent. Such action deserved strong encouragement and support from the United Nations. It shared the view that peacebuilding should become an integral part of peacekeeping mandates. The success of the operations should be gauged not only by the cessation of the armed conflicts but also by the irreversibility and sustainability of the peace. The example of Haiti demonstrated that peace could not be maintained without good governance, development and reconciliation or without institutions which guaranteed the rule of law.

36. For some time there had been a tendency to invest peacekeeping missions with mandate after mandate, ranging from the disarmament and demobilization of the combatants to the establishment of the rule of law and gender mainstreaming. Of course, that could help to achieve sustainable peace on a more comprehensive basis, but the overloading of peacekeeping missions with increasingly multidimensional and complex mandates stretched their capacity and caused problems of coordination among the various actors on the ground, who might have different mandates and organizational cultures. It would be useful in that connection to make a proper analysis of how and to what extent the increased complexity of peacekeeping mandates affected the operational efficiency of the missions.

37. The surging demand for peacekeeping operations was stretching to the limit not only the capacity of the United Nations but also the capacity of the Member States to provide personnel and financial support. There was therefore a need for a firm political commitment to peacekeeping on the part of the Member States. In order to secure such a commitment, the Security Council and DPKO must engage the major stakeholders in the decision-making process, including potential troop-contributing countries and the countries which bore a significant part of the financial burden. In conclusion, his delegation paid tribute to the memory of those who had lost their lives in the service of United Nations peacekeeping.

38. **Ms. Laohaphan** (Thailand) said that, today, United Nations peacekeeping operations were more concerned with intra-State conflicts, which were becoming increasingly complex, had a devastating impact on the economies and social fabric of the affected countries and led to human rights violations. In addition to conflict resolution, peacekeeping also involved assistance in nation-building and in many other areas. That required a comprehensive, multidimensional approach that did not end with the

resolution of the conflict but continued so as to ensure sustainable development and stability.

39. As the tasks of modern-day peacekeeping became ever more numerous and multifaceted, closer coordination was needed among all the United Nations agencies concerned, as well as with civil society and troop-contributing countries. Her Government provided support to many United Nations peacekeeping operations, most notably in the areas of humanitarian relief and post-conflict nation-building, and would continue to do so, in close cooperation with the United Nations. It was a staunch supporter of multilateralism and of broader cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. Such cooperation must, however, take account of the particularities of each region. The United Nations should engage regional organizations in conflict resolution more actively because they had a deeper understanding of the complex problems in their respective regions. A good example would be the success of ECOWAS and the African Union in resolving the conflicts in Liberia and the Sudan. The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) envisaged the establishment by 2020 of a security community, which would play a leading role in assisting United Nations peacekeeping missions in the region.

40. The success of peacekeeping missions depended on a number of factors, one of the most important of which was the ability to respond to a crisis in a timely manner with well-trained, well-equipped personnel. Her delegation therefore welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General to strengthen the United Nations standby arrangements system and the strategic deployment stocks.

41. As one of the 102 countries participating in United Nations peacekeeping operations, Thailand wished to reiterated its firm commitment to partnership and cooperation in that area. It would continue to give unwavering support to United Nations peacekeeping to the extent that its resources permitted it to do so.

42. **Mr. Choisuren** (Mongolia) said that he concurred with the assertion by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations that the Organization faced some difficult dilemmas with respect to peacekeeping. Although the Department of Peacekeeping Operations had undoubtedly made considerable progress in reforming and revitalizing United Nations peacekeeping capacity in recent years, the scope and complexity of new peacekeeping operations and the ever-growing demand for such operations posed very difficult questions for the Organization as to the future shape of those activities.

43. There had in fact been a steep surge in demand for United Nations peacekeeping, as demonstrated by the establishment of four new peacekeeping operations in the previous 12 months alone. Regrettably, as new conflicts emerged and old ones were reignited in various parts of the world, the number of such operations would only increase.

44. The line between peacekeeping and peacebuilding had become blurred. Today, peacekeeping operations were extremely complex in nature and encompassed a wide range of activities, including organization and monitoring of elections, repatriation and reintegration of refugees, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, mine action and so forth. The goal of peacekeeping operations was not to bring temporary relief, but to create the conditions for lasting peace, which, as experience had shown, could be achieved only by taking a whole range of actions, from disarmament to reintegration.

45. Naturally, that led to increased demand for technical means, financial resources and all categories of personnel, particularly staff with specialized skills, which placed a tremendous strain on existing capacity. One way of easing the burden on the United Nations was to enhance cooperation with regional and subregional organizations. His delegation therefore welcomed initiatives to that end, particularly the cooperation between the United Nations and ECOWAS, the European Union, ASEAN and other organizations. In addition, there was a need to examine the possibility of enhancing the cost-effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, particularly by paying greater attention to the development of local capacity.

46. His delegation also took note of the initiative to establish a United Nations standing capacity by preparing and maintaining a reserve of pre-trained, pre-equipped units, which would remain under the command of the troop-contributing countries prior to deployment. In its view, that concept and any substantive changes to the current standby arrangements system should be given very careful consideration by all the parties concerned and should be adopted only if a broad consensus was achieved.

47. In the light of the challenges facing the United Nations today, his delegation was eagerly awaiting the findings of the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change to be submitted later in the year. That should not, however, prevent delegations from engaging within the Committee in a frank and open exchange of views on the issue of further streamlining all aspects of peacekeeping, for the Committee was uniquely positioned to serve as a forum for in-depth deliberations on that question.

48. Since the mid-1990s, his Government had taken determined steps to develop its peacekeeping capability, and measurable progress had been made. In 1999, it had signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations concerning contributions to the United Nations standby arrangements system. In 2002, a law on participation by military and police personnel in United Nations peacekeeping operations and other international operations had been adopted, establishing a national legal framework for participation by Mongolian troops in peacekeeping operations.

49. The assistance provided by the United Nations and, in particular, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, along with Mongolia's bilateral partners, had played a crucial role in the development of the peacekeeping capabilities of its armed forces. In that regard, he wished to point out the vital importance of the training courses organized by the Department. Mongolian officers who had completed those courses were currently serving in peacekeeping forces in Western Sahara and the Democratic Republic of the Congo or held key peacekeeping-related positions in the Ministry of Defence and the General Staff of the Mongolian armed forces.

50. His Government, for its part, was taking a number of measures aimed at further enhancing Mongolia's capacity to participate in peacekeeping operations. It had organized field training exercises for peacekeepers with Belgium, the United States of America and a number of countries in the Asia and Pacific region. In addition, it had established a regional peacekeeping training centre, which in June 2004 had hosted a training event with the participation of contingents from China, France, the United Kingdom and the United States. The main focus of the training had been to provide guidance to the participating contingents on the techniques and procedures required to meet a wide variety of situations and threats encountered in United Nations peacekeeping operations. Mongolia stood ready to participate in peacekeeping operations under United Nations auspices or in coalition operations authorized by the Security Council.

51. **Mr. Naseer** (Pakistan) said that his delegation wished to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. Pakistan was the largest contributor of troops to United Nations peacekeeping operations (currently, more than 8,000 Pakistani troops were serving in peacekeeping missions and, by the beginning of 2005, that figure would increase to well over 10,000); that clearly demonstrated Pakistan's abiding commitment to international peace and security. In recent years, as crises had become more complex, so had United Nations peacekeeping: it increasingly required a more comprehensive approach embracing the social, economic, judicial and other aspects. Peacekeeping and peacebuilding were converging as never before. Demand for the services of United Nations peacekeepers was growing continuously: in recent years, there had been an unprecedented increase in both the number of peacekeepers deployed and the volume of financial, administrative and logistical resources required to support them. The growth of demand for peacekeeping was expected to continue. In the light of the upsurge in peacekeeping activities, his delegation had organized two public debates on that issue, which had helped to raise awareness of future challenges in peacekeeping and to mobilize support from the membership to enable the United Nations to meet those challenges.

52. There was a need to improve both integrated mission planning and mission support. Ensuring the safety and security of peacekeepers was no less vital. In that context, his delegation wished to reiterate the importance of timely field intelligence. It looked forward to participating with other States in the review of the conditions of service of United Nations civilian personnel deployed in field missions. As the Under-Secretary-General had stated, there was a need to incorporate peacebuilding elements in peacekeeping mandates. His Government was a strong advocate of a comprehensive, integrated approach based on closer coordination between the major organs of the United Nations and the Secretariat. Its proposal for ad hoc composite committees offered a solid framework for

effectively integrating peacekeeping and peacebuilding elements at the planning and execution stages.

53. Training was of the utmost importance in the context of the upsurge in United Nations peacekeeping activities. In that regard, it was critical to draw on the extensive experience of peacekeeping operations acquired by the major troop contributors. His delegation intended to introduce a draft resolution highlighting the upsurge in peacekeeping activities and some of the key related issues.

54. His Government had been and remained a leading advocate of triangular cooperation between troop-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat. In that connection, it continued to support the holding of closed meetings of the Security Council and troop contributors. It also wished to urge the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations to continue to invite troop-contributing countries to participate in its deliberations, particularly those related to specific peacekeeping missions.

55. Pakistan remained committed to peacekeeping, particularly as the host of one of the oldest peacekeeping operations, the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), which could play a vital role in confidence-building in the region and in the promotion of the peace process and the protection of human rights in Kashmir. Pakistan remained one of the oldest and most consistent participants in United Nations peacekeeping operations and one of the largest troop contributors. His Government had played an important role in the development of United Nations peacekeeping and wanted to see it serve the collective purposes of the United Nations and the peoples of the countries represented in it more effectively.

56. **Mr. Berry** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said that DPKO had made immense progress in establishing and managing peace-support operations. One significant indicator of the changes which had taken place was the very existence of the United Nations advance mission in the Sudan, which was preparing the ground for a potential peace-support operation to sustain the Naivasha peace process. The advance mission offered tangible evidence that the new approach to the planning of peace-support operations had become a reality. However, other facts — the continuing instability in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the massive human rights violations in Darfur, the persisting strife in Haiti and the lack of security in Iraq — highlighted the difficult challenges which remained. The Member States must help to address those challenges, for all counties were contributors in one way or another to United Nations peacekeeping and benefited from the maintenance of peace. Accordingly, all countries had an interest in protecting the investments which had been made and in maintaining the momentum generated by the implementation of the recommendations of the Brahimi Panel.

57. There were four serious challenges to United Nations peacekeeping. The first one was the "surge" in peacekeeping operations. The second was the need for the Member States to support the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's recent report on a strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations (A/59/365). The third was the continuing need for the United Nations and the Member States to give serious attention to the incidents of sexual exploitation in peace-support operations. The fourth was the promotion and implementation of a holistic and integrated approach to such operations.

58. A "surge" in peacekeeping operations would usually imply a temporary phenomenon. However, the present scale of peacekeeping operations was unlikely to diminish, while the other demands on national armed forces were either constant or increasing. Given that situation, the approach taken by the United Nations must be creative and flexible. For example, expanded partnerships with regional organizations and multilateral arrangements produced an obvious effect, as could be seen from the cooperation in recent years with such organizations as ECOWAS, NATO, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union and the African Union.

59. Another innovative move was the establishment of the Multinational Standby Force High Readiness Brigade for United Nations Operations (SHIRBRIG), participation in which was open to all Member States and which had already proved its worth in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, as well as in the context of the advance mission in the Sudan. That trend towards greater use of SHIRBRIG was expected to continue.

60. However, while partnerships played an important role in increasing the effectiveness of peacekeeping

operations, they were not sufficient in themselves. Given that the upward trend in the number of missions was likely to continue, the international community must ask itself whether the Secretariat had the necessary resources to manage the 60,000 persons deployed in 17 missions throughout the world. Was DPKO stretched beyond its capacity? Was it capable of handling properly the complex demands made on it by the Member States? Could DPKO, and for that matter the Member States, adequately respond to another major crisis or manage another new mission of any magnitude?

61. The crisis which the Organization had faced in the mid-1990s prompted the question whether the recent increase in staff and resources would be sufficient. That was not to criticize the Department, which often had to work in the most difficult circumstances. However, instead of calling for a lengthy assessment of the resources which the Department required at that particular moment, it should be provided with mechanisms for rapidly expanding and transferring its staff on a stable contractual basis, for otherwise it would be unable to cope with the demands made on it by the Member States. At the same time the Department must be required to be fully transparent and accountable in its use of such mechanisms.

62. In addition, when a crisis loomed in which United Nations involvement could reasonably be expected, use should be made of such modalities as the establishment of advance missions, appointment of special representatives of the Secretary-General and force commanders, and recruitment of mission-planning staff, in order to create the conditions for a timely start on the operational planning process in the United Nations. In addressing such questions it was impossible to overstate the importance of continuing to enhance cooperation and dialogue between the troop-contributing countries and the Security Council.

63. The security of the personnel was a basic precondition for the deployment of a peacekeeping operation. The Secretary-General's report on a strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations was welcome in that regard. The Organization must be provided with the necessary resources for carrying out the report's recommendations. The three countries on whose behalf he was speaking fully supported its central tenets. Of equal importance was the need to ensure that the additional resources were properly used. The Under-Secretary-General was expected to keep countries informed of changes in the Organization's appraisal of the security environment in which it operated, and the Secretariat could rest assured of the willingness of the Member States to respond properly to those changes.

64. Enhancing the security of the personnel was not just a matter of increasing resources but also of demonstrating the necessary political commitment. There could be no more tangible expression of that commitment to protecting United Nations personnel than to join the Member States which had become parties to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel. That appeal was directed in particular to those States which were hosting United Nations missions. The scope of the legal protection of United Nations and associated personnel should be expanded by way of the adoption of a new international legal instrument.

65. Special attention must be given to the need for all persons deployed in United Nations peace-support operations to be held to the highest standards of conduct and discipline. Generally speaking, nothing damaged the reputation of United Nations peacekeepers more than sexual exploitation. Such behaviour was unacceptable and must be followed up in every specific case.

66. In his report to the Security Council on women and peace and security (S/2004/814), the Secretary-General reaffirmed his conviction that sexual exploitation and sexual abuse were totally unacceptable forms of behaviour and reiterated his commitment to the full implementation of the special measures set forth in his bulletin (ST/SGB/2003/13). However, as the Secretary-General noted, the onus of combating such phenomena rested equally on the Member States, intergovernmental and regional organizations, international and national aid and civil society organizations. As he also pointed out in the report, although the Department had made real progress on that front in recent years, there was still a long way to go. Both the Department and the Member States must remain vigilant and stand ready to take determined action.

67. In particular, the Department should be equipped with the necessary capacity to investigate allegations of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse aggressively, in order not only to identify the perpetrators but also to

enable Member States to take legal action against them on the basis of the evidence gathered by the Department. Gender mainstreaming in all United Nations operations was another essential component of the struggle against sexual exploitation, and further reports on progress in that area would be welcome. Serious attention should be given to the issue in the briefing requested in the Special Committee's last report on the progress of the DPKO review of means of improving the monitoring of conduct in field missions. The three countries expected that briefing to be given at the next session of the Special Committee. The United Nations and the Member States must ensure that transparent, effective, fair and consistent disciplinary measures applied to all personnel deployed in peacekeeping missions. To that end they must agree on disciplinary rules and procedures, including rules on the investigation of every incident, transparency of information, and the sharing and disclosure of information.

68. Special importance in the context of peace-support operations attached to the linkages between development, the maintenance of the rule of law in all its aspects, good governance, including democratic elections, and the planning of peacekeeping activities in the post-conflict period, including the involvement of donors in the needs-assessment process. Poverty and conflict were interrelated in many if not all cases, and the measures taken following the completion of a peacekeeping operation were just as important as the operation itself. Effective mission planning must therefore include a clear focus on arrangements for a transition to peacebuilding on the basis of the early engagement of bilateral and multilateral development institutions in that work. It was necessary to establish overall collaboration and cooperation to that end among the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations, as well as among the Bretton Woods institutions, international donors, and humanitarian organizations.

69. Nor was it possible to overestimate the importance of the re-establishment of the rule of law within a mission area as the basis for the exit strategy. The three countries welcomed the report of the Secretary-General (S/2004/616), which contained current information on the lessons learned and formulated important recommendations on United Nations approaches to issues of the rule of law and transitional justice.

70. Two matters of a technical nature must also be addressed. The first related to the development of a standardized DPKO training module for enhancing the readiness of national military personnel for deployment to peacekeeping operations. The introduction of such a module would improve the training of the personnel not only of the United Nations itself but also of Member States and the staff of their missions in New York. The second matter, as the Department was aware, was that the three countries remained concerned about the discrimination in remuneration between staff officers of United Nations missions and military observers. They suggested as an interim measure that staff officers should have the status of military observers pending a decision to place them in some other category. The improvement in the morale of staff officers, and therefore of the mission's effectiveness as well, would far outweigh any increase in peacekeeping expenditure. The three countries were ready to continue a constructive dialogue with the Department on the subject.

71. **Mr. van den Berg** (Netherlands), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the candidate countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Turkey), the stabilization and association process countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), and, in addition, Norway, said that the European Union had always actively supported peacekeeping and had taken part in peacekeeping operations and other related activities throughout the world, manifesting thereby its commitment to United Nations policy for the maintenance of peace on the planet. The 25 States members of the European Union contributed more than 36 per cent of the regular budget of the United Nations, roughly half of total voluntary contributions to United Nations funds and programmes, and 40 per cent of the peacekeeping budget. They currently had some 50,000 troops deployed in peacekeeping missions. As the Union became larger and more integrated, its members were expanding their military and civilian crisis-management capabilities. In step with the recent surge in the number of peacekeeping operations the strategic partnerships between the United Nations and the African Union, the European Union, NATO and regional and subregional organizations had begun to play a more important role.

72. The cooperation between the European Union and the United Nations was built on the European

commitment to an effective multilateral system with a strong United Nations at its core. Within the framework of the Joint Declaration of the European Union and the United Nations on crisis-management issues, the European Union was working on the development of the concept of battle groups and on the further development of its cooperation with the United Nations on the management of civilian crises.

73. In the context of the recent surge in the number of peacekeeping operations throughout the world, the European Union had concentrated on some major priority areas. Firstly, it attached the highest priority to strengthening the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel deployed in the field and welcomed the steps taken by the Secretary-General for a thorough review of the system for ensuring their safety and security. It recognized the need for an enhanced capacity for security assessment and risk and threat analysis and welcomed in particular the risk-management approach outlined by the United Nations. The European Union would support appropriate improvements in the United Nations security system, including the allocation of the necessary resources, and would strongly support the efforts to increase the effectiveness of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel. It regretted that the joint mission analysis cells were not yet fully operational in peacekeeping missions.

74. In another important area — cooperation with regional arrangements — the European Union was actively engaged in a number of peacekeeping operations, and its cooperation with the United Nations on crisis-management issues continued to grow and strengthen. It also welcomed the partnerships established between the United Nations and other regional and subregional organizations.

75. In a third important area — strengthening the operational capabilities of the United Nations — the increasing number of peacekeeping operations had stretched the Organization's planning and management capacity. The effectiveness of field headquarters, especially in a mission's build-up phase, depended largely on the level of training and cohesiveness of the personnel of the headquarters in question. The European Union urged wider use of pre-existing headquarters capability in the initial phase of any peacekeeping operation, thus allowing staff at United Nations Headquarters time for formation, training, planning and full deployment of the mission. It wished to continue to discuss the use of pre-existing headquarters capability with the relevant organizations. Planning was another area in which the European Union wanted to develop cooperation. In order to improve the interaction of United Nations staff, especially military and civilian police, with the local people, due attention should be paid to the need to select candidates competent in the relevant languages.

76. The European Union had substantially increased its support of peacekeeping in Africa. Its African Peace Facility had become operational in May 2004, on the basis of the principle of African ownership and solidarity, with the aim of developing active cooperation between the European Union and the African Union in preventing and responding to conflicts on the African continent. Resources totalling 250 million euros had been earmarked for peacekeeping and support for institutional capacity-building in Africa. The European Union was currently considering ways of mobilizing other instruments at its disposal for expanding further its support for African initiatives for the prevention, management and settlement of conflicts on the continent. One striking example of the cooperation between the European Union and the African Union was the support given to the African Union's monitoring mission in Darfur: an initial contribution of 12 million euros had been followed by agreement to contribute a further 80 million euros. The European Union reiterated its willingness to give further assistance for the expansion of that mission and acknowledged the pivotal role of the United Nations in connection with it.

77. The planning and implementation of peacebuilding activities in the context of peacekeeping was integral to the success of a peacekeeping operation in the short term, the establishment of sustainable peace, and the long-term prevention of conflicts. Peacebuilding measures could have a significant impact on the political, social and economic environment in a mission's early phases and should be addressed in mission mandates from the outset in the light of the individual needs in each case. Too often there was an intervention gap at the strategic and operational levels between peacebuilding measures and peacekeeping operations. The strategic and operational planning of peacebuilding in DPKO and other parts of the United Nations system and in external entities was not yet satisfactory. Greater attention must be given to the assignment of the tasks to be addressed jointly by

the partners of the United Nations. An effective integrated mission planning process and effective financing, too often insufficient, were critical to the success of peacebuilding activities. Funding for peacebuilding activities in post-conflict situations must be provided earlier and more predictably. The balance between assessed and voluntary contributions should be examined in that regard.

78. The European Union reiterated the importance of adopting a gender-sensitive approach to peacekeeping. Although the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1325 (2000) on the subject of women and peace and security had improved awareness of gender issues, much remained to be done by way of addressing such issues in order to improve the situation of women in the post-conflict period and to secure their full and equal inclusion in negotiations, peace processes and decision-making bodies. But the gender perspective had not been systematically integrated into monitoring and reporting, and women remained seriously underrepresented in peacekeeping operations and in the position of Special Representative of the Secretary-General. The European Union called on the United Nations system to demonstrate real leadership and its commitment to gender mainstreaming.

79. The surge in peacekeeping operations was bringing to the fore such issues as the extent to which United Nations missions in the same region should cooperate with each other. Such cooperation must be encouraged, and possible synergies between adjacent missions should be explored further.

80. The European Union wished to discuss with other Member States and with the Secretariat ways of ensuring a more consistent exchange of information on the implementation of the Special Committee's recommendations throughout the year and using the outcome of the debate in the Fourth Committee as a true midterm review; with that in mind, the Special Committee's report might be restructured in such a way as to distinguish clearly between short-term and long-term priorities.

81. **Mr. Zhanibekov** (Kazakhstan) said that his delegation was grateful to the Secretary-General for his report and to the Under-Secretary-General for his wide-ranging review of United Nations peacekeeping. Given the increase in the scale and brutality of international terrorism and organized crime, the ceaseless armed conflicts, the menacing deterioration in the environment, and the spread of poverty, destitution and disease, peacekeeping operations conducted under United Nations auspices remained an effective tool for crisis settlement and establishment of global and regional peace. Kazakhstan fully supported the peacekeeping work of the United Nations and the further enhancement of its peacekeeping capabilities; having paid its arrears of contribution to the peacekeeping budget at the beginning of the year, it intended to continue to fulfil its financial obligations on a regular basis.

82. The steps proposed by the Secretary-General to secure an integrated, coordinated and comprehensive approach to conflict situations took full account of the complex and multifaceted nature of new conflicts, the avoidance of which required, above all, preventive action by the United Nations itself. Preventive measures, post-conflict peacebuilding, and efforts to protect civilians were important elements of a comprehensive reaction by the United Nations to emerging crises. Kazakhstan was in favour of strengthening the role of preventive diplomacy and remained of the opinion that the idea of establishing a United Nations preventive diplomacy centre in Central Asia was a timely one. The Organization should give special attention to the possibility of expanding the participation of leading regional and subregional organizations in peacekeeping operations, with a view to a more effective and rapid response to emerging threats. His delegation endorsed the Secretary-General's conclusion that the effectiveness and success of United Nations peacekeeping and peacebuilding still depended on mobilizing and implementing comprehensive regional approaches to problems which were transnational in their origins and consequences.

83. In the current unstable international situation, great importance attached to issues of the safety of peacekeeping personnel, especially in the light of the increased threat to the civilian staff of United Nations missions. His delegation endorsed the efforts of the Secretariat and DPKO to improve the security measures and the planning of peacekeeping operations by combining the efforts of various United Nations structures, funds and programmes and welcomed the steps taken to widen further the mandate of the standby arrangements system. In October 2003 Kazakhstan had signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations concerning its contributions to the standby system; it was now ready to provide personnel

and armoured and other vehicles for peacekeeping operations and wished to play a more active role in the peacekeeping procurement arrangements. Not one of the applications for DPKO posts submitted by Kazakh candidates had succeeded, even when the applicants had experience of peacekeeping operations and had undergone training on United Nations courses for peacekeepers. There was a need in that connection to improve the efficiency of the Department's procedures for securing closer cooperation with Member States in the training and deployment of their peacekeeping personnel.

84. It was heartening to note the substantial recent improvement in the understanding of the place and role of women in the establishment and maintenance of peace: their participation on a full and equal footing at levels of decision-making in a peace process was an integral part of peacekeeping operations and post-conflict reconstruction. Kazakhstan would continue resolutely to fulfil its peacekeeping obligations and to make the necessary efforts to strengthen the peacekeeping capacity of the United Nations.

85. **Mr. Strømmen** (Norway) expressed his gratitude to the staff of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, both at Headquarters and in the field, for their tireless efforts in managing current operations and planning for new missions. His delegation considered that attention should be focused above all on six key issues: the importance of inter-organizational cooperation in peacekeeping; the challenges inherent in the integrated mission concept; the security of United Nations and associated personnel and that of civilians in mission areas; security sector reform as a key element in any peacebuilding strategy; the need for qualified civilian personnel; and the continuing need actively to address HIV/AIDS in a peacekeeping context.

86. His delegation welcomed the strengthened relationship between the United Nations and the European Union, and between the United Nations and NATO as a means of expanding global peacekeeping capacity. Smooth cooperation between the various organizations involved in such operations was essential in order to ensure optimal use of resources. The leadership of the African Union in Darfur was only the latest example of the growing importance of regional organizations in peace operations.

87. His delegation hoped that the plans for a United Nations mission in the Sudan would be implemented in the near future, signalling an end to one of the longest conflicts on the African continent. A United Nations mission in the Sudan would have to face all the challenges inherent in multidimensional peacekeeping and integrated missions.

88. Coordination and coherence were the guiding principles of any United Nations operation. Much had already been done in that area in the follow-up to the Brahimi report. At the same time, there was still scope for better inter-agency planning, both at Headquarters and in the field. The economic development aspects of operations also deserved special attention. The dialogue between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Development Group on those issues was to be welcomed. His delegation was looking forward to the outcome of the joint study on the peacekeeping/humanitarian/development interface by the core group of the expanded Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs. Those key issues had been discussed at the United Nations Senior Management Seminar in Norway in spring 2004. The lessons learned should be incorporated into the ongoing development of standardized training modules for United Nations peacekeeping personnel.

89. Security for United Nations and associated personnel remained a major concern. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal for a new security structure. A primary task of any peace operation must be to create a secure environment for sustainable peacebuilding. That task must be duly reflected both in the mission's mandate and in the provision of resources for its implementation. The most important objective of any mission was to rebuild and reform the armed forces, the police and the justice sector, together with the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration of former combatants. More attention must also be directed at controlling the excessive accumulation and spread of small arms and light weapons, especially in conflict-ridden areas. It was to be hoped that strengthened control measures through the establishment of legally binding instruments would facilitate the work of future peacekeepers.

90. The need for human resources was a recurring theme in any discussion on United Nations peacekeeping. Norway had recognized the growing

need for qualified civilian personnel, such as civilian police and personnel from other parts of the justice sector, and for the past 10 years had been assisting in that area through its Training for Peace programme for southern Africa. It had now been decided to extend the programme to western Africa as part of an effort to strengthen African capabilities for peace operations.

91. In March 2004, Norway had set up a crisis response pool to offer assistance in all parts of the judicial system to post-conflict countries and countries in transition. The pool consisted of judges, public prosecutors, lawyers and personnel from the prison service. His country's goal was to make 1 per cent of the Norwegian police force available for international assignments. Norway was also providing training assistance approved by the United Nations to other countries for civilian police and military personnel, thereby enlarging the global pool of resources available for international peace operations.

92. In conclusion, he drew attention to the problem of HIV/AIDS, pointing out that the most recent report of the United Nations Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations had expressed serious concern for the health of both peacekeepers and local residents. AIDS was a fatal but preventable disease and all nations had a shared responsibility to address that issue actively. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) had facilitated the task of peacekeepers through the development of AIDS education and prevention modules for peacekeepers, and he expressed the hope that those materials would be widely used.

93. **Mr. Ayafor** (Cameroon) said that there had been a sharp increase in recent years in the demand for United Nations peacekeeping operations. That trend gave hope to the people of countries suffering from armed conflict and, at the same time, constituted a serious challenge for the Organization. The implementation of the recommendations contained in the Brahimi report had enabled the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to make considerable progress in improving the conceptual, operational and strategic aspects of peacekeeping. Much, however, remained to be done, in particular to enhance the effectiveness of operations. In that connection, his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

94. The growth in the demand for peacekeeping operations required greater political will and solidarity on the part of the States Members of the United Nations. As the number of peace missions had increased, so had the financial requirements. The Organization estimated that, up to the end of 2004, an additional sum of about $1 billion would be needed for the financing of existing missions and for new missions. The Member States, and particularly those countries with the capacity to support peacekeeping missions, should redouble their efforts to enable the Organization to carry out the tasks facing it in that area. They might also consider the possibility of providing additional troops for peacekeeping operations.

95. Peacekeeping operations had increased not only in number but also in complexity, making it necessary for the Organization continually to strengthen its peacekeeping capacity. That required joint efforts on the part of the Security Council, the Secretariat and the troop-contributing countries, in particular in order to clarify the mandates and improve the planning of peacekeeping operations, as well as to modify and evaluate them. It was important for the United Nations to adopt a global and integrated approach to peacekeeping operations. Better use should be made of the capacity not only of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, whose tasks had substantially increased and become more complex as a result of the growth in the number of missions, but also of the funds, institutions and programmes and of civil society. More effective supervision of activities on the ground was also necessary, particularly with respect to the protection of human rights, gender mainstreaming, improvement of the situation of children and other vulnerable groups, and reconciliation between the parties in conflict. In that connection, the coordination functions carried out by the special representatives of the Secretary-General should be reviewed in order to enable them to play their part more effectively.

96. His delegation attached particular importance to the activities of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations with regard to the training of field staff. He welcomed the creation of the Training Advisory Group and also the upgrading of the mission training cells concept into the integrated mission training centres concept.

97. The need for the rapid deployment of troops should be constantly borne in mind by the Organization

because rapid deployment could prevent the spread of conflicts. That required rapid decision-making, prompt receipt of the relevant mandate from the Security Council and availability of the necessary resources. The lessons of the Liberian crisis of 2003 should continue to be heeded by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, in particular with reference to the operations in Burundi and the Sudan. Unfortunately, rapid deployment was often hampered by the lack of the necessary material resources and qualified specialists, particularly in the case of contingents from the developing countries. His delegation suggested that the Secretariat should actively seek a solution to the problem through bilateral agreements.

98. The personnel of peacekeeping missions continued to be the target of those who were opposed to the restoration of peace. His delegation urged the United Nations to enhance the effectiveness of its intelligence gathering in order to prevent attacks on its staff. In that connection, action should be taken without delay to comply with the requests by the Secretary-General to establish a mission security management unit within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and appoint a full-time focal point for safety and security.

99. His delegation welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General and of a number of countries to enhance the potential of the African countries for peacekeeping operations. In that connection, it was to be hoped that fruitful cooperation would be strengthened between regional organizations and the United Nations.

100. Cameroon was playing an increasingly active part in peacekeeping operations in various regions of the world. In recent years, its police personnel had taken part in United Nations missions in Kosovo, Côte d'Ivoire and Haiti and its military observers were serving in the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and in the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI). At the request of the United Nations, there were plans to send a military unit comprising 50 soldiers to take part in the mission in Haiti. His country was ready for further cooperation with the United Nations in the field of peacekeeping. In that context, the National Police Academy in Yaoundé was willing to take students from other countries for further training and to hold seminars for French-speaking civilian police officers, who were much needed by the Organization at the present time.

101. **Mr. Fuenmayor** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that peacekeeping operations should be an effective means of giving effect to the provisions of the Charter. They should be conducted on the basis of the principles of agreement between the parties, impartiality and non-use of force, except in cases of legitimate defence. In addition, it was essential to define a clear mandate and to provide financial resources.

102. His country was in favour of conflict prevention through the resolution of the serious problems arising from instability and conflict situations. All decisions relating to peacekeeping operations should be consistent with the basic principles set forth in the United Nations Charter: respect for sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs and self-determination of peoples. That position was the basis of the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the preamble to which specified the obligation to promote peaceful cooperation between nations and to stimulate and strengthen the integration of the countries of Latin America in accordance with the principle of non-interference and self-determination of peoples.

103. The peacekeeping operations in Haiti had been especially noteworthy. His country supported the provision of humanitarian assistance within the framework of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), on the understanding that the assistance must not be provided through intermediaries that had political interests.

104. **Mr. Hassan** (Jordan) said that, in the view of his delegation, much more should be done to enhance collective efforts in the field of peacekeeping operations. Jordan had joined Germany and Finland in elaborating a non-paper comprising a number of options that had been submitted to the Secretariat for consideration.

105. There was a need to improve coordination in the distribution of the burden of carrying out peacekeeping operations. The members of the Security Council must participate more actively in the peace operations of the United Nations. With regard to security, the United Nations should focus attention on the question of balancing the requirements for information. The

subject of misconduct and disciplinary measures was of great importance.

106. His delegation called on all Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions in accordance with the obligation set forth in Article 17 of the Charter. For many years, Jordan had been taking an active part in the process of mine clearance and had completed the destruction of all its own stockpiles of mines. It was important for donor countries and the appropriate organizations and institutions to continue to provide technical and financial assistance in that activity.

107. **Mr. Stritt** (Switzerland) said that the number of peacekeeping operations involving United Nations troops had increased considerably, particularly in Africa. That was a sign of confidence in United Nations peacekeeping. Efforts must be pursued to strengthen peacekeeping by implementing the recommendations of the Brahimi report and by learning from past experience. Switzerland welcomed the efforts of the Security Council and the Secretary-General to adapt the mandates and the size of current missions whenever circumstances required.

108. The pursuit of progress in the implementation of successful integration between the different components of missions was essential. A long-term strategy should include activities with regard to such issues as the establishment or reconstruction of institutions, the promotion of human rights, justice and the rule of law, mine clearance, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of combatants, the return of refugees and displaced persons and efforts towards economic recovery.

109. Such an extension of the functions of the new peacekeeping operations increased the importance of close cooperation between the different organizations on the ground and required an integrated approach. Moreover, dialogue between humanitarian actors and those responsible for peacekeeping operations must be pursued. International law and humanitarian law must be applied in every phase of a peacekeeping operation. That applied particularly to the training and the behaviour of staff.

110. Recent events in Kosovo, Côte d'Ivoire and the Democratic Republic of the Congo demonstrated the need for further progress in the implementation of appropriate early warning mechanisms. The populations in the regions where United Nations missions were in place were not always well-informed about the missions' mandates.

111. At the national level, Switzerland was committed to projects that would enable it to contribute more actively to the deployment of military units or to the increased allocations of military observers. It had also increased its participation in training measures and was pursuing its dialogue to identify sectors in which it could provide expertise.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.